Military Times

Your Military

# Selective Service System wants to wargame the draft

By **Michael Peck**

Friday, Jul 24, 2026

Future Marines recite the oath of enlistment at Military Entrance Processing Station, Salt Lake City, Utah, on Oct. 24, 2022. (Cpl. Lydia Gordon/U.S. Marine Corps)

Fearing that its new plans for the U.S. military draft pool won't work, the Selective Service System wants to create a computer simulation to test scenarios for its national mobilization.

The “Readiness Simulation” project comes as the U.S. government is about to change its draft registration system.



Since 1940, men within a designated age range have been required to register with the Selective Service. But under a proposed rule, men aged 18 to 26 will be automatically registered starting Dec. 19, 2026. The Selective Service System will work off data contained in other federal databases.

Questions remain about how prepared the Selective Service System is to handle the change.

“SSS currently relies on manual analysis, legacy modeling approaches, outdated assumptions, and historical datasets that do not fully reflect modern demographics, communications channels, throughput constraints, or operational readiness conditions,” warned the agency in a Request for Quote for the Readiness Simulation tool.



The deadline for vendors to propose their simulation models is Aug. 14.

The computer simulation will explore multiple areas. These include evaluating staffing and resource requirements, comparing mobilization and police scenarios and assessing the operational impact of surge conditions. In addition, the system will “identify throughput risks, delays, and bottlenecks” and support executive planning and reporting obligations.

The goal is a simulation system that "models the full end-to-end SSS mobilization pipeline, supports configurable scenarios, and provides decision-support analytics necessary for leadership, planners, and operators."

Scenarios will encompass draft registration, selection, notification, delivery and classification. They will also cover the Alternative Service Program, which includes various forms of community service as well as conscientious objectors.

Computer models will "represent MEPS [Military Entrance Processing Stations] throughput, no-shows, medical disqualification rates, claims processing, and ASP diversion," according to the Request for Quote.

Contractors must be prepared to run the Readiness Simulation while "recognizing that legacy SSS draft data may be outdated or unreliable," the agency said.

A draft registration system based on data compiled by — and accessed from — other federal agencies is likely to raise privacy concerns.

The computer simulation "shall operate within an SSS-designated cloud environment, use anonymized aggregate data, and support complete Government ownership and sustainment," the agency said.

The simulation must also comply with multiple privacy regulations.

About **Michael Peck**

Michael Peck is a correspondent for Defense News and a columnist for the Center for European Policy Analysis. He holds an M.A. in political science from Rutgers University. Find him at theuncommondefense.com. His email is mikedefense1@gmail.com.

Share:

## In Other News ›

### Soldier hit by stray bullet near White House seeks $25 million from Secret Service

A soldier hit by a stray bullet in D.C. is seeking $25 million from Secret Service. The injury resulted in the removal of part of his digestive system.

### Even $500 could make a difference for military childcare workers, researchers find

Low pay is the leading reason military child care providers leave their jobs, but even a $500 bonus could help retain them, research found.

### X-Bow out to tackle cost quandary with sub-$100,000 drone interceptor

X-Bow Systems is launching what it hopes will be a remedy to the ongoing conundrum of combating cheap drones with multimillion dollar interceptors.

### Senators question whether military pharmacy program is the best deal for beneficiaries

Senators raised concerns about the potential anti-competitive tactics of the military's Tricare pharmacy program contractor, Express Scripts.

### Nearly 12,000 military Tricare beneficiaries warned of data breach

TriWest officials notified 11,844 beneficiaries of a data breach that may have affected their protected health information.

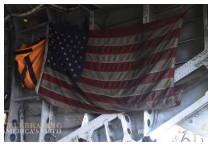
Load More

## Featured Video

D-Day beaches become UNESCO World Heritage sites

France deploys military aircraft to fight wildfires

Navy Reserve announces retention, recruiting bonuses up to $20,000



Celebrating America's 250-Year Legacy of Service, Sacrifice and Strength

**Trending Now**

How defense bureaucracy is driving elite warfighters out of the military

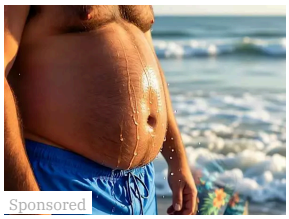
Airmen’s waist-to-height ratios not to be scored in physical fitness assessments

Roaches descend on US Army dining facility, viral video appears to show

Private bedrooms won’t be available to all enlisted Marines

Texas joint base medical barracks to be demolished, forcing the relocation of enlisted students

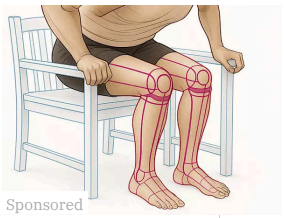
**Keep Reading**


Sponsored

**Cardiologist: "If You Have Stubborn Belly Fat, Do This Before Bed!"**

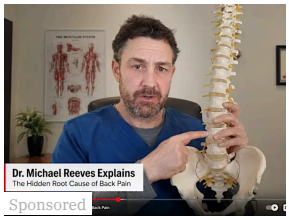
Do This Before Bed!

Health Weekly | Sponsored


Sponsored

**If You Have to Rock Forward Just to Stand Up, This Is Why**

dailyhealthdigital.com | Sponsored



Sponsored

**Former Spine Surgeon Reveals What Doctors Get Wrong About Back Pain**

Most Doctors Don't Know This.

Health Insights Today | Sponsored

Sponsored

**Forbes' 2026 GLP-1 Rankings Reveal a Clear Winner**

Beyond Ozempic: compare 2026...

Forbes | Sponsored

Search for

Sponsored

**Men Over 40 Are Ditching the Blue Pill for This 7x Stronger Alternative!**

Try This Before Bed!

Health Weekly | Sponsored

Sponsored

**Side Sleepers Get Achy Shoulders, Few Know This "Side Sleeper" Trick**

readsleepdigest.com | Sponsored

Sponsored

**Dentists Said Gums Can't Grow Back. Red Light Proves Them Wrong**

RejuvaCare | Sponsored

**Thae Ohu to receive bad conduct discharge after Marine general denies judge's recommended…**

Military Times

**Court-martial begins this week for fired artillery battalion commander**

Military Times

**Navy fires USS Somerset commanding officer**

Military Times

Military Times © 2026

**Terms of Use**
Privacy Policy
Terms of Service

**Get Us**
Subscribe
Newsletters
RSS Feeds
Shop Merch

**Contact Us**
Advertise
General Contacts,
Subscription Services
Editorial Staff

**About Us**
About Us
Careers
Jobs for Veterans